

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a flow of information, comprising:
receiving, at a base station, at least two signals from at least two user equipment, each signal requesting to transmit information from the corresponding user equipment to the base station;
determining, at the base station and based on said at least two received signals, at least one relative delay between signals transmitted by said at least two user equipment;
determining a time at which the information is permitted to be transmitted by each of said at least two user equipment based on the relative delay;
transmitting signals to each of said at least two user equipment, each signal identifying a time at which information is permitted to be transmitted from the corresponding user equipment to the base station; and
transmitting a synchronizing signal, and wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted further comprises transmitting a signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
transmitting the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted further comprises transmitting over a shared channel the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted.
5. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted further comprises transmitting a signal identifying a frame in which information is permitted to be transmitted.
6. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein determining at least one relative delay between signals transmitted by said at least two user equipment further comprises determining a propagation delay between signals transmitted by said at least two user equipment.
7. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein determining at least one relative delay between signals transmitted by said at least two user equipment further comprises determining a processing delay between signals transmitted by said at least two user equipment.
8. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:
receiving the information at a first preselected time;

comparing the first preselected time with the identified time to determine the relative delay between at least two user equipment.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a flow of information from a user to a base station, comprising:

receiving, at the base station, a signal from the user requesting to transmit information to the base station;

determining, at the base station and based on the received signal, at least one relative delay between signals transmitted to the base station by the user and at least one other user;

determining a time at which the user is to transmit the information to the base station, wherein the determined time is a function of the relative delay;

transmitting a signal to the user identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted; and

transmitting a synchronizing signal to the user, wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting a signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein:
transmitting the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at
which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting over a
shared channel the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing
signal at which information is to be transmitted.
12. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 9, further comprising a plurality of
users, and wherein:
transmitting the synchronizing signal further comprises transmitting the synchronizing
signal over a shared channel to each of the plurality of users; and
transmitting the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at
which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting over the
shared channel to the plurality of users a signal identifying a unique time, as a
function of the synchronizing signal, at which information is to be transmitted.
13. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein transmitting a signal identifying the
time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting a signal
identifying a frame in which information is to be transmitted.
14. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein determining at least one
relative delay between signals transmitted to the base station by the user and at least one
other user further comprises determining a propagation delay associated with signals
delivered by the user.

15. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein determining at least one relative delay between signals transmitted to the base station by the user and at least one other user further comprises determining a processing delay associated with signals delivered by the user.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving, at a base station, at least two signals from at least two user equipment, each signal requesting to transmit information from the corresponding user equipment to the base station;

means for determining, at the base station and based on said at least two received signals, at least one relative delay between signals transmitted by said at least two user equipment;

means for determining a time at which the information is permitted to be transmitted by each of said at least two user equipment based on the relative delay;

means for transmitting signals to each of said at least two user equipment, each signal identifying a time at which information is permitted to be transmitted from the corresponding user equipment to the base station; and

means for transmitting a synchronizing signal to the user, wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting a signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the flow of information between a user and a base station, comprising:

transmitting a signal from the user requesting permission from the base station to transmit information;

determining, at the base station and based on the received signal, at least one relative delay between signals transmitted to the base station by the user and at least one other user;

determining a time at which the user is to transmit the information to the base station, wherein the determined time is a function of the relative delay;

transmitting a signal to the user identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted;

transmitting a synchronizing signal to the user, wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting a signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted; and

transmitting the information from the user to the base station at the identified time.

18. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising:

receiving the information from the user at a first preselected time;

comparing the first preselected time with the identified time to determine the relative delay between the user and at least one other user.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the flow of information between a user and a base station, comprising:

receiving, at the user, a synchronizing signal from the base station;

transmitting a signal from the user requesting permission from the base station to transmit information;

receiving a signal from the base station identifying a time relative to the synchronizing signal at which information is to be transmitted, the time being determined, at the base station and based on the transmitted signal, based on a relative delay between signals transmitted to the base station by the user and at least one other user; and

transmitting the information from the user to the base station at the identified time.

20. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

receiving a signal from the base station identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises receiving a signal from the base station identifying a substantially unique time at which information is to be transmitted.

21. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

receiving a signal from the base station identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises receiving a signal from the base station identifying a substantially unique frame associated with the synchronizing signal during which information is to be transmitted.

22. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein:
receiving a synchronizing signal from the base station further comprises receiving a
synchronizing signal from the base station over a shared channel.